(MTNL) would provide about 47 million additional telephones by 2007. In this regard, they are taking necessary steps to organize their procurement plans, marketing strategy and fund requirement.

Medical camps for beedi workers

*126. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medical camps have not been held for beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the reasons for neglect of beedi workers in East and West Godavari districts;

(c) whether demands have been made for medical camps from these areas to the local officers;

(d) what steps would be taken to attend to such demands; and

(e) the reasons for neglecting these areas totally by Government?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. 37 medical camps were held during 2002-2004, and medical camps have been held so far during 2004-05 in Andhra Pradesh, including West Godavari district. In addition to this, 15 static cum mobile dispensaries are functioning in Andhra Pradesh, covering almost all the areas where beedi workers are concentrated. Besides, beedi workers are entitled to various benefits like re-imbursement of treatment costs in case of heart ailment up to Rs. 1.30 lakh, kidney transplant upto Rs. 2.0 lakh, for minor surgeries like hernia etc. upto Rs. 30,000/- and similar facilities for cancer, T.B. etc., and group insurance of Rs. 10,000/- in case of natural death and Rs. 25,000/- for death due to accident.

(c) to (e) One request was received for conducting medical camp in West Godavari district during 2002-03. Accordingly, a medical camp was held at Eluru on 30th/31st August, 2002. Last medical camp was held at Eluru in West Godavari on 06.06.2004. No specific demand for holding medical camps from East Godavari and West Gadavari districts has been received during last one year.